

## SURVEY METHODS

**Objective:** The 1998 Custom Rates Survey was designed to determine the rates being charged for the most common farm and ranch operations performed by custom operators.

**Survey Sampling:** Operators selected in the Custom Rates Survey were a subsample of respondents from a crop and livestock survey conducted in late 1998. Operators were asked if they did custom work or had custom work done for them in 1998. Only those giving a positive response to the screening questions were eligible for inclusion in the Custom Rates Survey. Positive respondents were further classified into those reporting [a] crops, [b] hay, [c] livestock, and [d] any combination. The additional screening was to assure a good cross section of farming and ranching operations in the sample and to help provide for adequate reports for all items. A total of 4,005 operators were sampled. See table below for sample counts and returns by area.

**Survey Procedure:** First and second request questionnaires were mailed and a telephone follow-up of a subsample of non-respondents was completed. Respondents were asked to answer only those questions with which they were familiar. After reviewing questionnaires for reasonableness, data were summarized by areas (page 2) and state level for publication. For some individual items, a minimal number of reports contributed to abnormal price variability. No attempt was made to reconcile reported data with previous survey data.

**Reporting Areas:** The state was divided into five areas to represent different topography, climates, and farming practices. The state's 15 crop reporting districts were combined to form the custom rate reporting areas. Data from these areas should reflect the diverse farming and ranching practices in Texas.

**TEXAS CUSTOM RATES**  
**Sample by Strata and Reports Tabulated, 1998**

Area	Sample Size								Useable reports tabulated
	Crops, livestock, and hay	Crops and hay	Livestock and hay	Crops and livestock	Crops only	Livestock only	Hay only	Total sample	
Plains . . . . .	36	123	19	25	815	34	133	1,185	673
Central . . . . .	64	224	122	22	324	100	758	1,614	1,060
East . . . . .	5	4	55	3	23	17	203	310	204
West and Southwest . .	13	19	28	2	214	17	85	378	344
Coast . . . . .	23	32	43	16	81	125	198	518	225
<b>STATE . . . . .</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>1,457</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1,377</b>	<b>4,005</b>	<b>2,506</b>